

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 and 29-34 are pending, Claims 26-28 have been previously canceled, and Claims 1, 16-18, 21 and 29 are amended.

The amendments of Claims 1, 21 and 29 find non-limiting support, for example, in the specification at page 12, line 26 through page 13, line 10 and Fig. 7. Therefore, the amendments are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive; Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14-27 and 29-34 were rejected as unpatentable over Kohonen et al. (article entitled "Self Organization of a Massive Document Collection") in view of Derthick (article entitled "Interfaces for Palmtop Image Search"); Claim 8 was rejected as unpatentable over Kohonen et al. in view of Derthick and in further view of Doerre et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,061); and Claims 12-13 were rejected as unpatentable over Kohonen et al. in view of Derthick and in further view of Bruijn et al. (article entitled "Patterns of Eye Gaze during Rapid Serial Visual Presentation").

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Dwivedi for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representative on August 23, 2007, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Arguments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented and the Examiner indicated that in light of the arguments, he would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response.

Regarding the objection to the title of the invention, the title is amended to be descriptive. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of 1-25 and 29-34, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is overcome because, in Applicant's view, amended independent Claims 1, 21 and 29 patentably distinguish over the applied references as discussed below.

Claim 1 is amended to further recite "a graphical user interface configured to display display points within a display area on a user display *by grouping the display points in accordance with the positions of the nodes to which the selected information items have been mapped.*" Thus, the invention recited in Claim 1 enables for a user to aware of the information associated with the selected node (*i.e.*, similar information) so that the user can easily check the similar information to refine the search.

Instead, Kohonen discloses clustering similar information together as shown in Fig. 4 to make the subsequent search easier (Kohonen at page 583, paragraph D describes that the distribution of patents on the final map has been visualized in Fig. 4). That is, Fig. 4 does not show a result of retrieving process, but a map used for the retrieving process. Instead, Kohonen shows that 30 best-matching units are marked on the display with circles the size of which indicates the goodness of the match (Kohonen et al. in Fig. 6). However, Kohonen et al. does not teach or suggest grouping the circles in accordance with the positions of the nodes to which the selected information items have been mapped. Likewise, Derthick also fails to teach or suggest grouping the circles in accordance with the positions of the nodes to which the selected information items have been mapped.

Thus, Kohonen et al. and Derthick fail to teach or suggest at least "a graphical user interface configured to display display points within a display area on a user display by grouping the display points in accordance with the positions of the nodes to which the selected information items have been mapped," as newly recited in Claim 1.

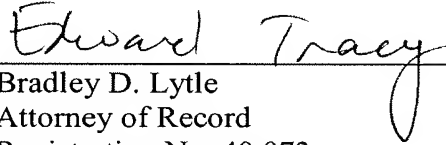
Similar arguments as set forth above also apply to Claims 21 and 29.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 21 and 29 patentably distinguish over the applied references. Therefore, Claims 1, 21, and 29 and the pending Claims 2-20, 22-25 and 30-34 dependent therefrom are believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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